

REMARKS

There appears to be an error in the Office Action. Applicant filed a Second Preliminary Amendment on February 28, 2001, which is not referenced in the Office Action. Attached to this Reply is a copy of this Second Preliminary Amendment.

In the November 13, 2003 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-26 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. The Examiner found claims 1-26 unpatentable over claims 1-19 of U.S. Patent No. 5,996,075 and claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,814.

Applicant contends that there are significant, patentable differences between claims 1-26 of the present application on the one hand, and claims 1-19 of the U.S. Patent No. 5,996,075 and claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,243,814, on the other hand. Nevertheless, Applicant files herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate the obviousness-type double patenting rejections of claims 1-26.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

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Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: February 13, 2004

By: 

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Attachments: Terminal Disclaimer
Second Preliminary Amendment

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